

## REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicant requests favorable reconsideration of this application and withdrawal of the rejection in the April 18, 2006 final Office Action. Applicant also requests entry of this Amendment, since it is accompanied by an RCE.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 9, 11, 12, and 16 are now pending in this application, with Claim 1 being independent. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended Claim 1.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 9, 11, 12, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102, as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,822,475 (Hirota, et al.).

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejection, independent Claim 1 has been amended. Applicant submits that as amended, Claim 1 is allowable for the following reasons.

Claim 1 relates to an optical waveguide apparatus comprising, in part, a sheet-shaped optical waveguide capable of propagating light in two-dimensional directions, a light emitting unit, and light receiving units configured and positioned to receive light propagating in the waveguide.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite, in part, 1) that the light emitting unit is configured to emit at least two light beams in different directions to the waveguide, 2) at least two light diffusing structures each of which diffuses one of the light beams emitted from the light emitting unit, and 3) that the light emitting unit emits the at least two light beams in different directions within the waveguide so that each light beam is directed toward and received by a different light diffusing structure. Non-limiting examples of this arrangement are shown in Figures 1, 2, 4, 5, 7,

8, 9, 11A, 12A, and 13, which each illustrate a laser emitting multiple beams in different directions to target different diffusing structures.

In contrast, the patent to Hirota et al. is not understood to disclose or suggest that a light emitting unit is configured to emit at least two light beams in different directions to an optical waveguide, as recited by amended Claim 1. In addition, the Hirota et al. patent is not understood to disclose or suggest that the light emitting unit emits the at least two light beams in different directions within the optical waveguide so that each light beam is directed toward and received by a different light diffusing structure, as also recited by amended Claim 1. Rather, this patent is understood to merely show laser diodes 42a in Figures 4 and 6 that emit a beam in one direction from one side thereof into an optical data bus 20.

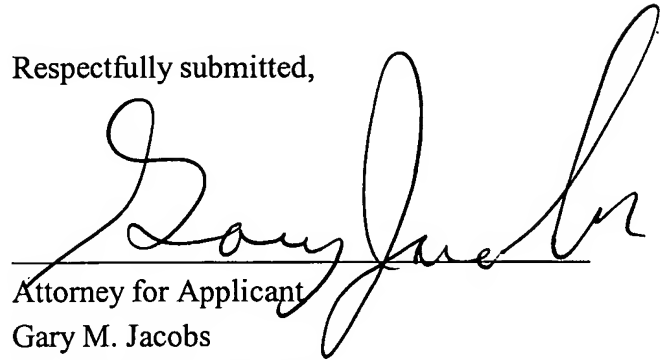
Since the Hirota et al. patent is not understood to disclose or suggest at least two features of amended Claim 1, Applicant submits that amended Claim 1 is not anticipated by this patent and respectfully requests withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of Claim 1 over this patent.

The remaining claims are dependent claims which depend from independent Claim 1. Thus, those claims are patentable over the applied patent for reasons noted above with respect to Claim 1. In addition, each dependent claim recites features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied patent. Accordingly, Applicants request favorable and independent consideration thereof.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Jacobs", written over a horizontal line.

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